2008 | 2009

# Kindergarten

Curriculum Express for Parents

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# Curriculum Express for **Parents**

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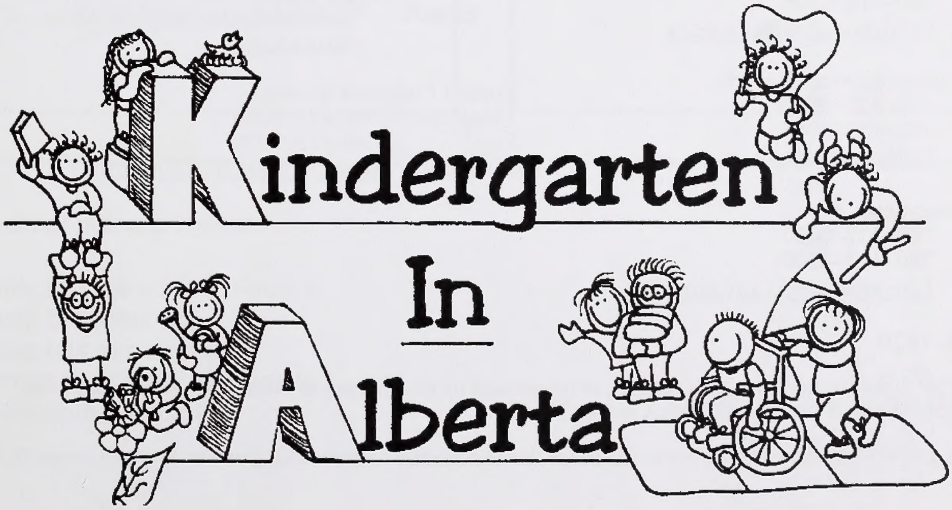

# Alberta Education

The Alberta Education Web site contains information on learning from the early years to adulthood. This document, along with most Alberta Education documents, can be found on the Web site at http://education.alberta.ca.

*Curriculum Express for Parents*, along with most Alberta Education documents, are available for purchase from:

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Toll-free: 310–0000 (inside Alberta)
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Internet: http://www.lrc.education.gov.ab.ca/pro/default.html

Telephone numbers of branches involved in curriculum and resource development can be reached, toll-free inside Alberta, by dialling 310–0000.

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# Kindergarten in Alberta

## Kindergarten Children

Children usually go to Kindergarten in the year before Grade 1.

Your child does not have to go to Kindergarten. But, it is a good idea to send your child to Kindergarten. Kindergarten helps your child in many ways. For example,

- Your child learns about school.
- Your child makes new friends.
- Your child prepares for Grade 1.

## Kindergarten Teachers

Kindergarten teachers are trained teachers. They know how to help young children enjoy Kindergarten. They plan activities to help young children learn.

Sometimes Kindergarten teachers have a teaching assistant. Teaching assistants help the students and teachers. They help in many ways.

## Principals

Each school has a principal.

Principals are the school leaders.
They help the teachers.
They also talk to parents.
Sometimes the principal reads to the Kindergarten children.

# What do children learn in Kindergarten?

## Early Literacy

Children learn to use language to express thoughts, feelings and experiences.

- They learn about sounds and make rhymes.
- They listen to stories together and talk about the stories.
- They ask and answer questions.
- Children learn about books and print.
- They learn to print their own names.

## Early Numeracy

Children use mathematics to make sense of their world.

- They count objects up to 10.
- They show a given number using pictures or objects.
- They sort objects by shape, colour or size.
- They recognize and make patterns.
- They compare objects on length, weight or volume.

## Environment and Community Awareness

Children use their five senses to explore the world around them.

- They explore the use of blocks, wood, clay, water and sound.
- They learn about shapes, colours, signs and patterns in their world.
- They find out about places and activities in the community.

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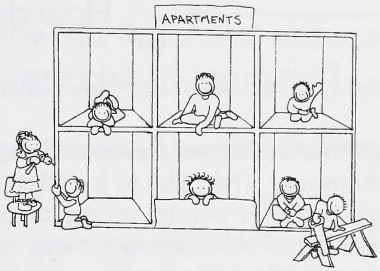
## Citizenship and Identity




Students start to learn how to be good citizens.

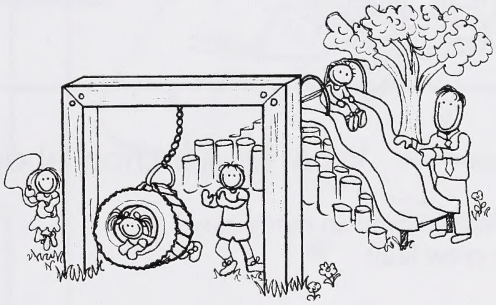
- They learn what makes them unique.
- They learn about their world and how they belong.
- They learn how to share and show respect.

## Personal and Social Responsibility

Children learn to work and play with others.

- They learn to work in a group.
- They learn how to make friends.
- They learn about feelings.
- They learn to follow directions and be responsible.

## Physical Skills and Well-Being



Children learn to make good choices in their life.

- They learn how to live a healthy life.
- They learn how to live a safe life.
- They learn about exercise.
- They develop their bodies.

## Creative Expression

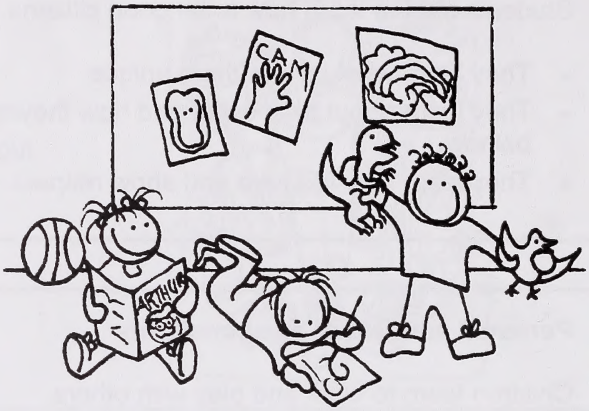
Children express feelings and ideas through music, drama and art.

- They join in action songs.
- They explore paints, clay, crayons and learn about colours, shapes, lines and patterns.
- They use their imagination to tell stories using puppets and role-playing.

## How do young children learn?

Young children learn in many ways.

Children are also very active. They like to move. They like to try different things. In other words, young children like to play. For example, young children like to ask questions. In this way, they learn many things.



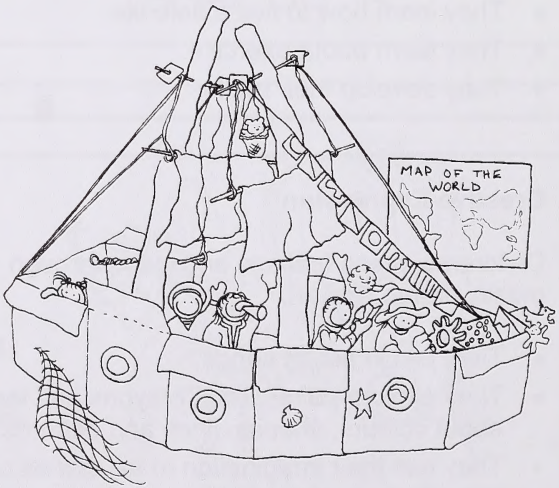

Play is an important part of Kindergarten. Children learn many things when they play.

**Students learn from their teachers.**
**Students learn from each other.**
**And they learn from you!**

## What do we know about young children?

Young children grow in many ways.
And they grow fast!

- They learn new things everyday.
- They learn how to be with other people.
- They learn how to think.
- They learn how to express their ideas.
- They learn how to express their feelings.
- And they learn how to use their bodies.





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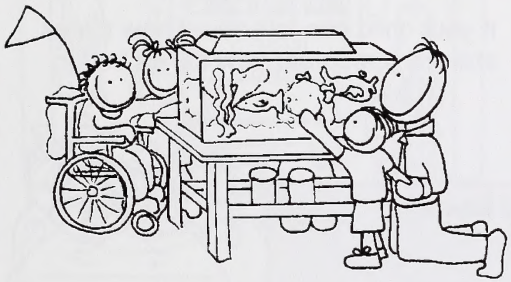
## Children have different needs

We are all different. We have different needs. Children have different needs too.

Some children need extra help with learning.

Some children need extra help with English.

Some children have special needs.



## Is my child doing okay?

Visit your child's classroom.

Go to Parent Evening at the school.

Find out about your child's progress. Read the progress report.

**Do you want to know more?**
**Talk to your child's teacher anytime!**

## How do teachers assess my child's learning?

Teachers assess your child's learning in many ways:

Teachers talk to your child.

Teachers watch your child at play.

Teachers listen to your child.

Teachers write notes about your child.

Teachers look for changes in your child.

The teacher assesses your child's learning everyday.

In this way, the teacher knows your child's needs. The teacher can help your child in the best way possible.

## How can I help my child do well at school?

Sleep and healthy food help your child do well at school. Set a regular bedtime. Make your child a healthy breakfast.

Let your child help at home. He will enjoy helping you.

Talk with your child. Ask your child about her day at school.

Here are some questions you can ask your child.

What story did you hear today? Can you tell me about it?

Who did you play with?

What learning centres did you go to today?

What are you learning about now?

If your child can talk about new things, she will remember new things better.

**Do you speak another language at home?**

Talk to your child in your language.
Read books in your language.
These activities will help your child at school.

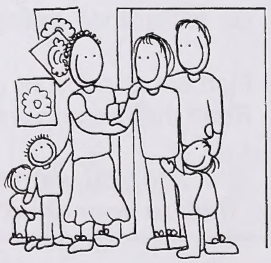
## Parents are welcome at school!

**If you have time …**

Ask to be a helper at your child's school.

Join the School Council. It is a group for parents.

Go to special events. One special event may be Family Evening.



**Be part of your child's school!**
School will be more fun for you and your child.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# Information from school

The school sends you lots of information. For example:

- Progress reports
- Information about special days and events
- Information about school trips

**Is my child safe at school?**

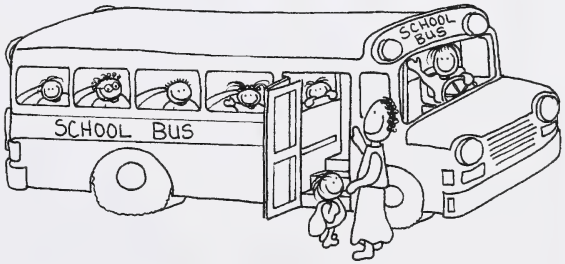
Schools take extra care of Kindergarten children. For example:

Teachers always watch the children at recess.

Your child's teacher is always in the classroom.

Teachers make sure that your child arrives at school safely.

Teachers make sure that your child leaves the school safely.




**What do you do with this information?**

1. Read the information. If it is hard, ask somebody to help you.
2. Phone your child's school if you have a question.
3. Sometimes there is a place to sign your name.
   Sometimes you check a box ☐ yes or ☐ no.
4. Send the information back to school with your child.

**More Questions?**

Parents always have a lot of questions about Kindergarten.

**If you have questions, please call your child's school.**

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